GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
ADULTERATION IN PETROL AND DIESEL
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of petrol pump owners found guilty for adulteration of diesel and petrol alongwith the action taken against them;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the testing-method for detection of adulteration;

(c) whether the main reason attributed to such adulteration has been the low profits of petrol and diesel pumps as compared to their costs;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(e) if so, the percentage of profit in comparison to the cost as per the prescribed rules?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 BY PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH MARCH, 2003 REGARDING ADULTERATION IN PETROL AND DIESEL.

(a) : The percentage of petrol pump owners found guilty of adulteration of diesel and petrol is as follows :-

Year	Total No. of Retail Outlets	Total No. of Cases of adulteration detected	Percentage (%)
2000-2001	18366	257	1.4
2001-2002	18687	294	1.6
April to December, 2002	19148	257	1.3

Action has been taken by the oil companies in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreements.In addition to this, the State Governments can also take action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the provisions of various Control Orders, issued thereunder.

(b) : Yes, Sir. However, adulteration in small quantities cannot be detected easily by usual laboratory tests which are outside its sensitivities.

(c) to (e) : With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 01.04.2002, the Government is no longer fixing the dealer`s commission on petrol and diesel, which is now being fixed by the oil companies. The oil companies have last revised the dealer`s commission with effect from 01.11.2002. As per this revision, the dealer`s commission on petrol was increased from Rs.613/KL to Rs.639/KL and on diesel from Rs.365/KL to Rs.385/KL.